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Slap Bass Lines

Joe Santerre

Slap Technique

Lesson 1

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Slap Technique

This book will help you develop your slap technique. These suggestions will help you maintain an even overall sound:

1. Be precise with thumb attacks.
2. Only hit the string you want to sound.
3. Muting strings is critical.
4. Muted thumb attacks should be struck with the same intensity as sounded notes.
5. Pull attacks should not be louder or more intense than thumb attacks.

In this book, slap techniques are labeled as follows:

- T Thumb attack
- X Dead note (String attacked as indicated, but not allowed to ring. These are notated using the open string on which they are attacked.)
- U Thumb-up stroke (thumb pulls up from under the string)
- S Slide
- H Hammer on (no attack with slapping hand)
- P Pull string with first or second finger
- L Lift finger from previous note to the note with the L above it

Slurs  show when notes are sounded without a right-hand attack, as in hammers, slides, and lifts. Only the first note of a slurred group is articulated with the right hand.

LESSON 1:

ONE-CHORD SLAP GROOVES

These examples are basic slap grooves. Listen closely to your attacks and your overall sound. One of the most challenging aspects of playing slap bass is maintaining an even, full, clear sound. Of course, you can do some experimenting with the sound by adjusting the control knobs on your bass and your amp, but a good sound always starts with your hands.

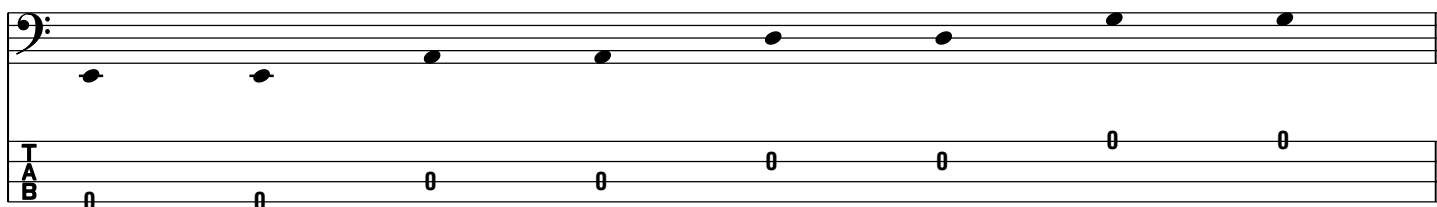
This lesson will use eighth-note grooves, focusing on the root and octave of the given chord. To hear more of this type of bass playing, listen to artists such as Sly & the Family Stone and Larry Graham.

THUMB, PULL, AND MUTED NOTES

- T Thumb slap. Use a down-stroke attack with your thumb. These are generally the lower notes of a slap-bass line.
- P Pull. Use your index finger to pull up on the string and sound the note. Pulled notes are generally the higher notes of the slap line.
- X Muted. Use your left hand to mute or “choke” the note. These are notated on any of the open strings. You can play a muted note with regular fingering, or with a thumb slap, pull, or hammer.

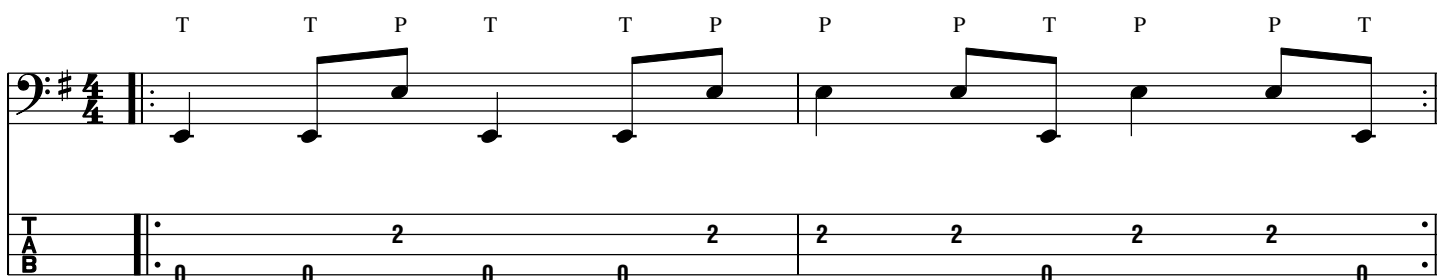
1 Example 1

Tuning Notes: E, A, D, and G strings, each played twice.



2 Example 2

E-7



lesson 1

one-chord slap grooves

3 Example 3

E-7

4 Example 4

G7sus4

5 Example 5

F

6 Example 6

E-

lesson 1

one-chord slap grooves

7 Example 7

G7

T T P T T T T P T T T P

3 3 5 X X 3 3 5 X X 3 5

8 Example 8

C-6

T P T T T P T T T T P T T T

5 3 3 3 3 5 X 3 X 3 5 X 3 3

9 Example 9

Hammer on the muted notes in this example.

D7sus4/E

T H T H T H T T H T H T H T P T

0 X 0 X 0 X X 0 X 0 X 0 X X 9 7

T H T H T H T T H T H T H T P

0 X 0 X 0 X X 0 X 0 X 0 X X 9 7

lesson 1

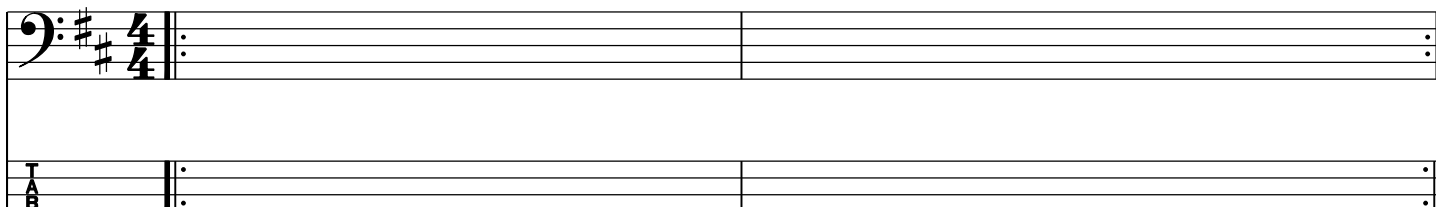
one-chord slap grooves

WRITE YOUR OWN

In the following blank measures, write your own bass grooves for the chord indicated. Remember, the goal is to outline the chord; start with the root, fifth, and octave. Model your own rhythms after those used in the examples.

1.

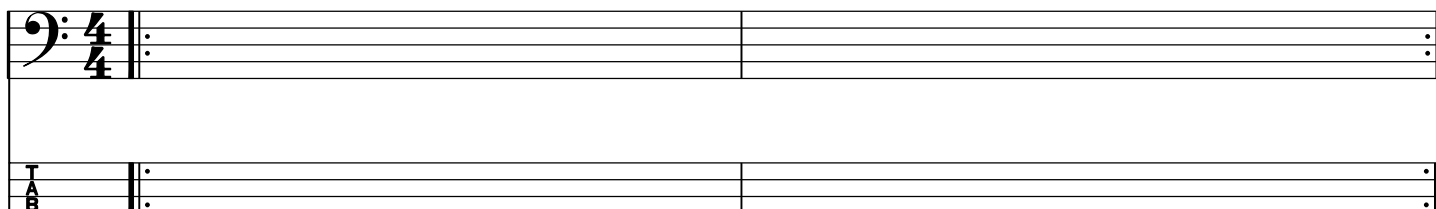
E-7



Exercise 1: E-7 chord. The notation shows a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure contains a whole note chord (E-7) and a triplet of eighth notes (E, G, B) marked with a 'T' and a triplet bracket. The second measure is blank for the student to write a groove.

2.

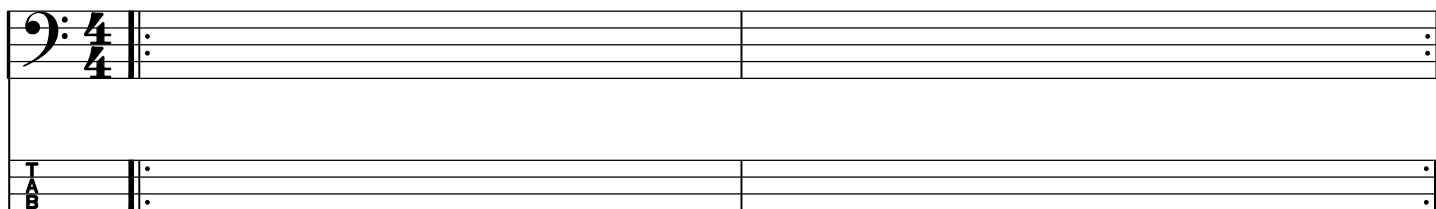
D-7



Exercise 2: D-7 chord. The notation shows a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure contains a whole note chord (D-7) and a triplet of eighth notes (D, F#, A) marked with a 'T' and a triplet bracket. The second measure is blank for the student to write a groove.

3.

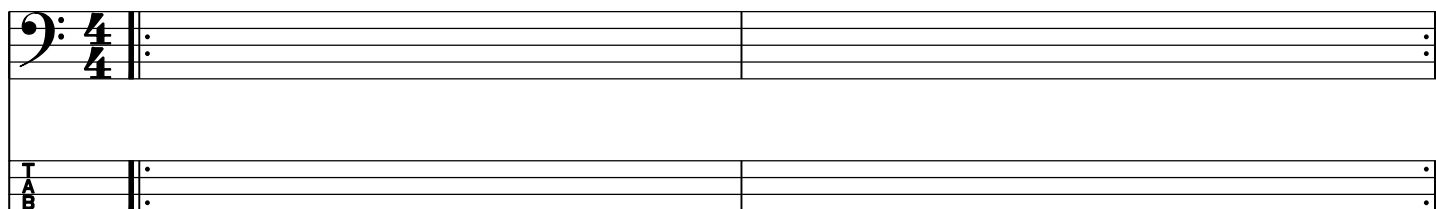
G7



Exercise 3: G7 chord. The notation shows a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure contains a whole note chord (G7) and a triplet of eighth notes (G, B, D) marked with a 'T' and a triplet bracket. The second measure is blank for the student to write a groove.

4.

A-7



Exercise 4: A-7 chord. The notation shows a bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The staff is divided into two measures. The first measure contains a whole note chord (A-7) and a triplet of eighth notes (A, C#, E) marked with a 'T' and a triplet bracket. The second measure is blank for the student to write a groove.

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one-chord slap grooves

10 Song 1

EASY DOES IT

Musical notation for the bass line of "E-7". The notation is in 4/4 time and features a repeating eighth-note pattern. The notes are: E2, F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, F62, G62, A62, B62, C63, D63, E63, F63, G63, A63, B63, C64, D64, E64, F64, G64, A64, B64, C65, D65, E65, F65, G65, A65, B65, C66, D66, E66, F66, G66, A66, B66, C67, D67, E67, F67, G67, A67, B67, C68, D68, E68, F68, G68, A68, B68, C69, D69, E69, F69, G69, A69, B69, C70, D70, E70, F70, G70, A70, B70, C71, D71, E71, F71, G71, A71, B71, C72, D72, E72, F72, G72, A72, B72, C73, D73, E73, F73, G73, A73, B73, C74, D74, E74, F74, G74, A74, B74, C75, D75, E75, F75, G75, A75, B75, C76, D76, E76, F76, G76, A76, B76, C77, D77, E77, F77, G77, A77, B77, C78, D78, E78, F78, G78, A78, B78, C79, D79, E79, F79, G79, A79, B79, C80, D80, E80, F80, G80, A80, B80, C81, D81, E81, F81, G81, A81, B81, C82, D82, E82, F82, G82, A82, B82, C83, D83, E83, F83, G83, A83, B83, C84, D84, E84, F84, G84, A84, B84, C85, D85, E85, F85, G85, A85, B85, C86, D86, E86, F86, G86, A86, B86, C87, D87, E87, F87, G87, A87, B87, C88, D88, E88, F88, G88, A88, B88, C89, 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F138, G138, A13

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The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two staves. The top staff is a bass line in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It features a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests marked with 'X'. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature line, with fret numbers (3, 5) and rhythm flags (3, X) corresponding to the notes in the bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4.